

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus that can communicate with a server device via a network and control a printer, comprising:
 - 5 image data memory for storing image data transmitted to said printer;
 - first image list memory for storing a list of identification information for the image data stored in said image data memory;
 - 10 print instruction acquiring means for acquiring a print instruction indicating that the image data stored in said server device should be printed;
 - second image list memory for storing a list of identification information for the image data to be printed that is included in said print instruction acquired from said print instruction acquiring means;
 - 15 comparison means for comparing the list stored in said first image list memory and the list stored in said second image list memory; and
 - 20 download means for downloading, from said server device, the image data that is included in the list stored in said second image list memory but not included in the list stored in said first image list memory, as a result of comparison by said comparison means.
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2. A function extension program that can communicate with a software for controlling a printer, said program causing a computer to execute:

a process of accepting a print instruction for a

5 plurality of image data;

a process of acquiring a list of identification information for the image data transmitted to said printer from first image list memory storing said list;

a process of managing to store a list of

10 identification information for the image data to be printed that is included in said print instruction in second image list memory;

a process of comparing the list stored in said first image list memory and the list stored in said

15 second image list memory; and

a process of requesting the server device connected via a network for the image data that is included in the list stored in said second image list memory but not included in the list stored in said

20 first image list memory, as a result of comparison by said comparison means.

3. The function extension program according to claim 2, further causing a computer to execute a process of managing to store the acquired image data by requesting the server device connected via the network in image data memory, and a process of updating the list stored

in said first image list memory with the list stored in said second image list memory.

4. The function extension program according to claim
5 3, further causing a computer to execute a process of acquiring the image data included in the list stored in said second image list memory from said image data memory, depending on a result of said comparison.

10 5. The function extension program according to claim
3, further causing a computer to execute a process of transferring said acquired image data included in the list stored in said second image list memory to said software.

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6. The function extension program according to claim
2, further causing a computer to execute a process of managing to delete, from said image data memory, the image data corresponding to the identification
20 information that is included in the list stored in said first image list memory but not included in the list stored in said second image list memory, depending on a result of said comparison.

25 7. The function extension program according to claim
2, further causing a computer to execute a process of communicating with the WWW browser, wherein said

function extension program is executed based on the description of an HTML file acquired by the WWW browser.

8. A computer readable storage medium storing the
5 function extension program according to claim 2.

9. An information processing apparatus comprising:
means for executing the function extension program according to claim 2; and
10 means for communicating with the server device or the printer as defined in claim 2.

10. An information processing method for extending the functions of a software for controlling a printer,
15 comprising:
a step of accepting a print instruction for a plurality of image data;
a step of acquiring a list of identification information for the image data transmitted to said
20 printer from first image list memory storing said list;
a step of managing to store a list of identification information for the image data to be printed that is included in said print instruction in second image list memory;
25 a step of comparing the list stored in said first image list memory and the list stored in said second image list memory; and

a step of requesting the server device connected via a network for the image data that is included in the list stored in said second image list memory but not included in the list stored in said first image
5 list memory, as a result of comparison by said comparison means.